

# COMPTROLLER

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Illinois Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza (Democrat) took office on Dec. 5, 2016, serving the last two years of the late Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka's term. Comptroller Mendoza is the first Hispanic independently elected to statewide office in Illinois.

In less than a year, Mendoza began to transform the office, shifting priority to the funding of nursing homes, hospice centers, schools and the state's most vulnerable citizens. In better times, the office is charged with paying the state's bills as they arrive. Given the current state budget crisis, which included two straight years without a budget, the office has the thankless task of deciding which state bills get paid.

Comptroller Mendoza advocated to pass the Debt Transparency Act, despite the Governor's veto. This is a critical reform that requires state agencies to report the number of unpaid state bills they are holding monthly, instead of annually.

Prior to her statewide election, Mendoza was the first woman elected Chicago City Clerk.

Under Mendoza's leadership, she championed a huge technology overhaul, where more than 1.3 million Chicago City Vehicle Sticker customers were shifted from an inefficient and archaic seasonal sales program to Year-Round Sales. The new system, modeled after the Illinois Secretary of State's license plate renewal program, resulted in millions of dollars of new revenue and vastly improved customer service at a lower cost to taxpayers. The program was awarded a 2015 "Bright Idea Award" from Harvard University.

Prior to her service as City Clerk, Mendoza served six terms between 2001 and 2011 as a Democrat in the Illinois House of Representatives. Starting as the youngest member of the 92nd Illinois General Assembly, she quickly earned a reputation as a tenacious and effective legislator who stood out for her bipartisan approach to governing. Mendoza was routinely recognized for her leadership in the areas of social services, education, law enforcement, job creation and animal welfare.

Mendoza lives in Chicago's Portage Park neighborhood with her husband, David, and their five-year-old son, David Quinten. She is a foodie, soccer fan and former collegiate soccer player, and she occasionally loves jumping out of perfectly fine airplanes.

## Office of the Comptroller

The Comptroller is the chief fiscal control officer for Illinois government, charged with maintaining the state's central fiscal accounts and ordering payments into and out of the appropriate funds. To fulfill these duties, the Comptroller has established accounting standards for use by all state agencies. Maintaining the official records regarding state government's fiscal affairs, the Comptroller serves as a clearinghouse for financial information.